

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.*

GOVERNOR.

JOHN IRELAND, of Seguin, Guadalupe county, was born in Hart county, Kentucky, January 1, 1827, of Irish descent. He received a common school education; studied law in 1851 and 1852, and came to Texas in 1853, and settled at San Antonio, but in April of the same year he removed to Seguin, his present residence, where he at once obtained license, and commenced the practice of law, in which he has been eminently successful. In 1861 he was elected to the Secession Convention, from Guadalupe, in which body he was a strong advocate for the ordinance of secession, believing it the only proper course to pursue at the time. He joined the Confederate army as captain, was promoted successively to major and lieutenant-colonel of his regiment, and was subsequently appointed by President Davis Judge of the Criminal Court. In 1866, under the reconstruction policy of President Johnson, Judge Ireland was elected judge of the district composed of Travis, Williamson, Burnet, Blanco, Hays, Guadalupe, Caldwell and Bastrop counties, which position he held until removed by the military, as an "impediment to reconstruction." In the same year (1867) he was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, which was called under the "reconstruction laws of Congress." In 1872 he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Thirteenth Legislature, and in 1874 to the Senate of the Fourteenth, from the counties of Guadalupe, Gonzales, Caldwell and Hays. In the summer of 1875 he was appointed by Governor Coke one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the State, a position which he held until April, 1876, when the present Constitution went into effect; and in 1880 was one of the delegates for the State at large to the National Democratic

*Terms expire January, 1885.

Convention, at Cincinnati, which nominated General Hancock for President. He was nominated by the Democratic Convention which met at Galveston, in July, 1882, without opposition, and elected over Hon. George W. Jones by a majority of nearly fifty thousand votes. During the period between his nomination and election day, November 7, Judge Ireland made an active and extended canvas of the State, meeting his eloquent opponent at all places when in his power to do so.

Governor Ireland has been twice married; first to Mrs. Faircloth, whose maiden name was Matilda Wicks, and who died in 1856. His present wife was Miss Anna M. Penn.

In his manners, Governor Ireland is quiet, rather reserved, but genial to those who know him. As a citizen, he is temperate in habits, moral in his conduct, affable in his demeanor, just in his judgments, generous in disposition, hospitable in manners, and liberal in his views. As a judge, he sought justice and loved mercy. As a legislator, his course was satisfactory to his constituents, and made him warm friends throughout the State, but his course in regard to railroad bonds made him many enemies. As a lawyer, he stands in the front rank of Texas attorneys, and before a jury he is almost irresistible. Being in the prime of manhood, with a vigorous intellect and robust physique, Governor Ireland enters upon the duties of the high office to which the suffrages of the people have called him with every promise of fulfilling the hopes of his friends and the expectations of his supporters.